

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of September 5, 2003 is respectfully requested.

In order to make necessary editorial corrections, the entire specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised. As the revisions are quite extensive, the amendments to the specification and abstract have been incorporated into the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added by the revisions. Entry of the substitute specification is thus respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected elected claims 1-8 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over: claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,570,099; claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,548,152; claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,522,555; claims 13-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,329,045; and claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,060,150. In addition, the Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1-8 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 52-63 of co-pending Application No. 10/313,534; and claims 11-23 of co-pending Application No. 09/956,208. For the reasons discussed below, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider these rejections.

As an initial matter, the Examiner is requested to note that original claims 1-36 (including non-elected claims 9-36) have now been cancelled and replaced with new claims 37-50. In this regard, all of the new claims read on the elected invention, and new claims 37-44 correspond to original claims 1-8, respectively. Although the new claims have been drafted so as to place the original claims in a preferred form (and to add new dependent claims 45-50), it is submitted that no attempt has been made to modify the scope of the original claims upon drafting the new corresponding claims.

In view of the double patenting rejections and the provisional double patenting rejections set forth in the Office Action, a Terminal Disclaimer has now been prepared and submitted herewith. In particular, the Assignee has disclaimed the terminal part of any statutory term of any patent granted based on the present application which would extend beyond the expiration date of any of the patents or applications (if eventually issued) cited by the Examiner. Consequently, it is

respectfully submitted that the Examiner's double patenting rejections have been overcome. Furthermore, because the Examiner has not set forth any prior art rejections of the original claims, and because the scope of the new claims corresponds to the scope of the original claims (with the exception of the newly-added dependent claims), it is submitted that new claims 37-50 are clearly patentable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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